

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 828

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edward F. Williams, III.

WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow and a profound sense of loss that the members of the General Assembly pause to honor the bountiful life and exceptional public service of Edward F. “Ed” Williams, III, a gentleman of the highest honor and integrity, who passed from this life on September 29, 2013; and

WHEREAS, as Shelby County’s second County Historian and former Shelby County Commissioner, Ed Williams was an authority on the history of Memphis and Shelby County and authored three books on local history, including *Early Memphis and Its River Rivalry*; and

WHEREAS, a devoted public servant, Ed Williams served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1971 to 1978 and helped pass important environmental laws, including Tennessee’s Clean Water Act; he was a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission and served as its Vice Chairman, and he was elected a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1988, 1992, and 1996; and

WHEREAS, Ed Williams served thereafter as a County Commissioner from 1978 to 1994 and served as Chairman twice during his sixteen year tenure; he established E. F. Williams and Associates, Environmental Engineers in 1980 and served as its president until he sold the firm in 1990 to Environment Testing and Consulting, Inc., which he also served as President. He also held positions in the Shelby County trustee’s and assessor’s offices afterwards. In 1995, he was appointed County Environmental Coordinator, and he served on the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Basin Authority and the Memphis Belle War Memorial Foundation and as a Trustee for Bolton College and Faith Christian Academy; and

WHEREAS, Ed Williams was born in Brooklyn, New York, on January 3, 1935, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Auburn University, where he served as sports editor of the *Plainsman*, and earned a master's degree in history from Memphis State University; he bravely served his country as a Lieutenant from 1957-1960 in the U.S. Air Force and retired with the rank of Captain in 1971; and

WHEREAS, he received numerous awards for his work, including the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Lifetime Environmental Stewardship Award, Shelby County Environmental Improvement Award, American Society of Engineer's Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award, and he was named Tennessee Conservationist of the Year by the Tennessee Conservation League as well as by the National Wildlife Federation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-three years, Sue Williams; his daughter, Cecile Leggett, and her husband, David; and his son, Alex, and his wife, Cindy; and

WHEREAS, friends, colleagues, and family members remember Ed Williams as a "history hero", "a walking encyclopedia", and "a gentleman in every way"; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years of his illustrious life, Ed Williams demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of all who had the opportunity to know him; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Edward F. Williams, III, reflecting fondly upon his integrity, character, and enthusiasm for the history of his community, his State, and his Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the Williams family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.